FY 2020
SMALL NEPA PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

Please **do not leave any field BLANK**.
Submit form electronically (as Word doc) to james.chynoweth@usda.gov by November 7, 2020.

(NOTE: Italicized / red comments are for reference only. You can delete them after completing the form.)

Project Name	Flint Creek Culvert Replacement
District Name (or "Forestwide")	Red River Ranger District
County (-ies) where project located?	Idaho
FS Personnel Name, Phone Number and Email *If a partnership, please add name, phone and email; however, **an FS employee MUST BE the project proponent** and point of contact.*	Stephen Hampton 983-4033 stephen.hampton@usda.gov Jenifer Harris 983-1290 jeniferh@nezperce.org
Legal Location *Township(s), Range(s), and Section(s) of project.*	T30N, R8E, S26
Decision Maker's Name District Ranger/Line Officer *responsible for signing the decision document*	Terry Nevius
Is the project associated with meeting a Forest target?	Yes
Which CE Category does this project fit? *Provide citation: 36 CFR 220.6(e)(x)*	36 CFR 220.6(e)(18) Restoring wetlands, streams, riparian bodies by removing, replacing, or modifying water control structures such as, but not limited to, dams, levees, dikes, ditches, culverts, pipes, drainage tiles, valves, gates, and fencing, to allow waters to flow into natural channels and floodplains and restore natural flow regimes to the extent practicable where valid existing rights or special use authorizations are not unilaterally altered or canceled.
Provide names and mailing addresses and/or email addresses of the individuals, groups, agencies, etc. to be included (other than those listed below*) for *Scoping*. • DO NOT leave this box blank: **NA**.	

Does the Decision Maker want a Legal Notice published in the Lewiston Tribune*? No

**** A legal notice is not required for CE projects.***

The scoping period will be 14 days unless the Decision Maker wants to change it. ____ Days

What Level of Analysis (below) does the Decision Maker want for the Project?

__X__ **Low level:** Choose this level if the project's level of public scrutiny is expected to be relatively low or unknown. Documentation for low level analysis projects would be a completed Extraordinary Circumstances checklist filled out by the specialists, including the name of the specialist who performed the analysis, the project name, and date it was completed. No other written documentation would be generated.

_____ **Moderate level:** Choose this level if the project's level of public scrutiny is expected to be relatively moderate to high. In this case, specialists would complete the Extraordinary Circumstances checklist with the only write up being for resources that are present and the rationale for the effects call. No write up would be given for items in the checklist that are not present.

If the determination is no effect (which most CE's should have zero to very little adverse effects), then document *why* that determination was made in one paragraph or less. If the determination is an adverse effect, then *why* that determination was made would be written in less than three paragraphs.

List the Management Area(s) in which your project is located.

MA 10 and MA 11

What are the Management Area(s)' Goals and Standards* *relevant to your project?*

- Manage watershed, soil resources, and streams to maintain high quality water that meets or exceeds State and Federal water quality standards, and to protect all beneficial uses of the water, which include fisheries, water-based recreation, and public water supplies.
- Ensure that soil productivity is maintained, and no irreversible damage occurs to soil and water resources from Forest management activities.
- Secure favorable conditions of flow by maintaining the integrity and equilibrium of stream systems of the Forest.

** Described in Chapter 3 of the Nez Perce and Clearwater Forest Plans.*
**** Include any relevant Forestwide Standards found in Chapter 2 of the Forest Plans as well.***

Is the project in a designated Idaho Roadless Area (IRA)? Yes* No

Is the project in a congressionally designated area, ex. Wilderness Area, Wild & Scenic River Corridor, Research Natural Area, Historic Trail, etc.? Yes* No

Are there Floodplains or Wetlands in the project area? Yes No

Are there Municipal Watersheds in the project area? Yes No

Is the project located in an RHCA? Yes No

Describe the Existing Conditions of the project area.

There is an undersized culvert on Flint Creek and one on an unnamed tributary to Flint Creek. Both are located on Forest Service Road (FSR) 9812, within 0.25 miles of each other.

- The existing culvert on Flint Creek is a squashed corrugated metal pipe, 84 inches wide, by 60 inches tall, by 45 feet long. Bankfull averages over 10 feet above and below the culvert. The culvert has been identified as a fish barrier at high flows using Fish Crossing modeling. The creek is in a meadow, and there is a trail/trail head at the culvert site. The road has been built up adjacent to the creek, creating an incised stream.
- The existing culvert on the unnamed tributary is a round corrugated culvert, 30 inches in diameter and 30 feet long. The bankfull width is about 5 feet above and below the culvert. The culvert is a barrier at most flows.

What is the Purpose and Need for the proposed action*?

The Purpose of the project is to help meet the goals and standards for Management Area 2 (Riparian) as described in the Nez Perce/Clearwater Forest Plan (see Management Area(s)' Goals and Standards above). To accomplish this, the two existing culverts on FSR 9812 would be replaced with open bottom arch-plate culverts that pass fish at all flows and reduce bank erosion downstream of the culvert. In addition, moving the trail/trailhead 100 feet away from the creek at the Flint Creek culvert site would help restore the floodplain and help increase connectivity to the meadow, reducing the impact of high flow events in this area.

Describe the Proposed Action.

The Nez Perce Tribe and the U. S. Forest Service (FS) would partner to design and implement the culvert replacement and trail adjustment.

The work would take place at FSR 9812 where the road crosses Flint Creek and an unnamed tributary to Flint Creek. The Tribe would be responsible for overseeing the work completed by the Contractor. Both culverts would be replaced with open bottom arch-plate culverts. After the contract is awarded and before digging begins, the creek will be de-fished (by the Forest or Nez Perce Tribe) and water diverted around the project area. An excavator, grader, dump truck and pump will be used during construction. Construction would include removing the culvert and installation of the AOPs. Relocation of the trailhead would involve reconstructing the first segment of the trail and trailhead and reshaping of the existing trail and trailhead.

The total area of impact would be less than one (1) acre (200 feet of road/trail work, and 100 feet of stream work for both culverts).

Equipment, such as, an excavator, dump-truck, and roller would be used to do the work.

The site is accessed from the FSR 9812. The project would not change access restrictions.

A Clean Water Act 404/401 permit from US Army Corps of Engineers and Idaho Department of Water Resources would be required prior to implementing the work.

The Nez Perce Tribe would conduct surveys of the culvert replacement, one-year post-implementation. Surveys to ensure the culverts are maintaining fish passage would occur annually for the following 5 years, post-implementation.

The designs for the two culverts are expected to be completed in 2021 or 2022. Implementation of the project would occur between 2022 and 2025. Project work would occur between July 10 and September 30 and take approximately two (2) months to complete. All in-stream work would be done between July 15 and August 15 (per the FWS/NFMS fish window).

List the Design Feature / Mitigation Measures * to be included with the Proposed Action.

- The Project will implement all appropriate mitigation measures and design features outlined in the Idaho Stream Crossing 10-year Programmatic BiOp.
- See additional information section for other Design Criteria.

Small NEPA IDT/resource specialists are listed below. Contact them if you have any questions regarding their resource for your project.

Botany – Mike Hays, mike.hays@usda.gov; 983-4028
Fisheries – Derrick Bawdon, derrick.bawdon@usda.gov; 963-4211
Heritage – Christy Mog, christy.mog@usda.gov; 935-4269
Hydrology – TBD
Minerals – Marty Jones, martin.jones@usda.gov; 983-5158
Recreation – Carol Hennessey, carol.hennessey@usda.gov; 935-4270
Soils – TBD
Wild and Scenic River – Chris Noyes, chris.noyes@usda.gov; 935-4251
Wildlife – Jim Lutes, james.r.lutes@usda.gov; 963-4202

Small NEPA Planner – Jeff Chynoweth, james.chynoweth@usda.gov; 935-4260

PROJECT MAPS and SHAPEFILES

Please send – per the instructions outlined below – a GIS-generated map or maps of the project area (pdf format only) with the project submission.

- **Make sure that the map layers can be turned on / off / are editable.**
- **Make sure the map(s) can fit on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper.**

1. Provide at least one map, **preferably "portrait" orientation**, with the project area / features as:
    - a Point, e.g. culvert, bridge, etc.,
    - a Line, e.g. fence, road, creek, etc., and/or
    - a Polygon, e.g. stand boundaries, treatment areas, etc.
        - Do not use a point if treating an area, use a polygon.
        - Points/lines/polygons need to be distinct and easily found on the map.
        - The project area / site needs to be centered on the map, especially if only one area/feature.
2. Please **use the Forest Visitor Map as your map's base layer**.
    - Do not add contour lines to the FV map unless needed for clarifying the proposed action. Contour lines can make the map difficult to read.
        - If contour lines are needed, make sure they are distinguishable from other linear features such as roads, trails, streams, etc.
    - A topo map can be substituted for the FV map. If using a topo map but the contour lines are not important the topo lines should be light gray or opaque.
    - Regardless of base map, make sure there are identifiable elements, e.g. towns, roads, streams, etc. on the map to help locate the project area on the landscape and that the elements are clearly labeled.
3. The **preferred map scale is whatever scale best presents the project area's location and proposed activities**:
    - If the 1:24K scale is too small (i.e. the project feature(s) – point/line/polygon – would be hard to find or would be indistinguishable on just one map), use a larger scale to show the overall project area (coarse scale map) and smaller scaled maps to show the project features (fine scale map).
    - If the 1:24K scale is too big (i.e. the project feature is a tiny point or thin line lost/hard to find on the larger landscape), use a smaller scale to highlight the feature while ensuring there are elements on the map to identify the project's location.
    - If you need to make additional maps, please make as few as possible.
4. At a minimum, **all maps should include**:
    - Title (project name and district name only (please);
    - Legend (features clearly labeled)
    - Scale (ending in half miles, e.g. 0__0.25__0.5 miles, or in full miles, e.g. 0__0.25__0.5__1.0 miles)
    - North Arrow
        - Display the above in boxes with a black outline and a white background (not gray or yellow)
        - Do not 'Halo' the text or numbers or anything else on the map. Please.
        - The Scale needs to be large enough to read the numbers.
5. Finally, please **include the mapmakers name and the date it was created on the map**.

The Map(s) you provide will be used for Scoping the Public and the Tribes and in the Decision document. Please make sure they show – clearly, effectively, and professionally – what activity or activities are being proposed and where they are located on the Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forests.

SHAPEFILES

The resource specialists require the shapefile(s) of the project's proposed activities before they will conduct their analyses. Providing the shapefile does not substitute for providing a pdf map.

The Project Proponent needs to send the shapefile, or a location where the shapefile can be found, to the Small NEPA Planner (currently: jjchynoweth@usda.gov) by the time or shortly after the District Ranger submits this form.

- Shapefiles need to include the Project Name and have the Feature (culvert, bridge, etc.) labeled.
- Shapefiles need to include the following extensions – .dbf, .prj, .sbn, .shp, .shx, and .xml.

Projects in Roadless Area

What is the Inventoried Roadless Area name?	**Forest Plan IRA Name *(if different)*:**
Identify the Idaho Roadless Management Classification: • *Wild Land Recreation* • *Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance* • *Primitive* • *Backcountry Restoration* • *General Forest, Rangeland and Grassland*	**Classification(s):**
Does the project involve constructing or reconstructing roads? Yes* No * If yes, see *http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2* then navigate to Subpart C 294.23	
Does the project involve cutting trees? Yes* No * *If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2* then navigate to Subpart C 294.24	
Does the project involve removing minerals, including common variety minerals? Yes* No * *If yes, see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title36-vol2* then navigate to Subpart C 294.25	

JC : 8/21/2020

Additional Information:

Design Features:

- PACFISH/INFISH – Roads Management: Construct new, and improve existing, culverts, bridges, and other stream crossings to accommodate a 100-year flood, including associated bedload and debris, where those improvements would/do pose a substantial risk to riparian conditions. Substantial risk improvements include those that do not meet design and maintenance criteria, or that retard attainment of Riparian Management Objectives, or that do not protect designated critical habitat (or INFISH priority watersheds) from increased sedimentation. Base priority for upgrading on risks to listed anadromous fish/inland native fish and their designated critical habitat (or priority watershed) and the ecological value of the riparian resources affected. Construct and maintain crossings to prevent diversion of streamflow out of the channel and down the road in the event of failure. ***NP Forest Plan – Amendment 20; CLW Forest Plan – Amendment 10***

- During road work (construction, re-construction, maintenance, decommissioning, or long-term storage) activities, measures are to be taken to prevent or minimize sediment from entering streams during project activities and in the long-term, such as: (a) placing removable sediment traps below work areas to trap fines; (b) when working instream, removing all fill around pipes prior to bypass and pipe removal (where this is not possible, use non-eroding diversion); (c) revegetating scarified and disturbed soils with grasses (weed free) for short-term erosion protection and with shrubs and trees for long-term soil stability; (d) mulching with native materials, where available, or using weed-free straw to ensure coverage of exposed soils; (e) dissipating energy in the newly constructed stream channels using log or rock weirs; and (f) armoring channel banks and dissipating energy with large rock whenever possible. **Applies to projects using *Idaho Stream Crossing 10-year Programmatic BiOp***

Figure 1. Downstream end of Flint Creek culvert.

Figure 2. Downstream end of Flint Creek culvert.

Figure 3. Flint Creek Upstream View Below Crossing

Figure 4. Tributary to Flint Creek; Upstream View Towards Culvert

Figure 5. Scour pool below Flint Creek Tributary crossing.

Figure 6. View of upstream end of Flint Creek tributary crossing.

Figure 7. View of Flint Creek tributary crossing showing undersized culvert.